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Title: Need to review the decision regarding reduction of quota of Kerosene allocated to the State of Kerala.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Non availability of Kerosene has become a serious issue among poor fishermen in the country. Shortage of sufficient Kerosene adversely affects fishermen of their fishing needs. Now a days more than 17,000 out board motor boats and traditional fishing boats are operational in the coastal belt of Kerala. Requirement of Kerosene for these fishing crafts is 5786 Kilolitre per month while actual allocation is 2532 Kilolitre per month for the State. There is a clear gap of 3254 Kilolitre kerosene against actual requirement in a month. In fact, the present allocation is sufficient for only 10 days and for the remaining days of the month, the poor fishermen are forced either to be idle or to buy kerosene from the open markets at a price of Rs. 30-35 per litre to meet their fishing needs. This results in a sharp drop in the income of traditional fishermen and it will also lead to starvation in the entire coastal belt of Kerala. In view of augmented rural electrification of households and allocation of increased number of LPG connections for domestic purpose, the Petroleum Ministry has reduced the existing kerosene quota of Kerala thereby effecting lakhs of fishermen. So, the Petroleum Ministry should urgently review its decision and ensure the allocation of sufficient quota of kerosene to fishermen for their occupational needs and save the entire community from perilous hardships and starvation.